



1430 Senate Street
Box 11469
Columbia, SC 29211
803-734-8666
Fax: 803-734-8676
TDD: 803-734-7298

Inside

DISCUS	4
APLA	5
Teens	6
Baby-boomers	7
Global Reference	8

*News for
South Carolina Libraries*
can now be viewed online
from the State Library's
web site:
www.state.sc.us/scsl

ISSN: 0146-1842

News

For South
Carolina Libraries

Vol. 34, No.5

September/October 2002

Georgetown Library Documents Community Heritage

A recent South Carolina Humanities Council (SCHC) Grant – entitled “The Women of Georgetown County: the 20th Century” – enabled the Georgetown County Library to produce some wonderful achievements. This oral history project resulted this spring in a seven-part documentary series featuring ten remarkable ladies, five black and five white. Almost 900 citizens attended Friday-night viewings of these women’s reminiscences on the following themes: family, careers, education, heritage, race, personal history, and spirituality.

All video showings occurred at the Strand Theatre in Georgetown and featured humanities scholars who helped to provide citizens with a better understanding of their current social, cultural, and political environments through a thoughtful examination of these memories of the last hundred years. This SCHC grant strengthened Georgetown County’s social fabric in a significant way. It brought blacks and whites, young and old, and residents and newcomers together in an investigation and a celebration of the community’s experiences, while underscoring William Faulkner’s observation about our Southern region that, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past (Requiem for a Nun).”

This idea for this project originated in 1999 during the celebration of the Georgetown County Library’s 200th anniversary; however, it was sidetracked when the library was selected as the only public library nationwide to be a Local Legacy of the Library of Congress during that institution’s bicentennial celebration of 2000. The project gained momentum when a local library supporter – who just happened to have a background in television journalism – decided to take some time off from her career to have a family. When it became known that this expert in videotaping, editing, and compiling programs was looking for part-time, free-lance work, the library leapt upon this opportunity.



(cont’d on page 3)

FROM THE DIRECTOR.....

James B. Johnson, Jr.

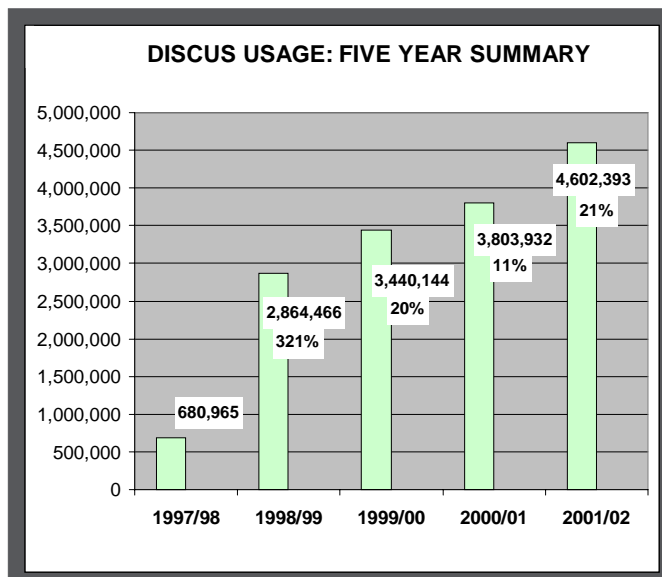


Five years ago the State Library established DISCUS—South Carolina's Virtual Library. In this brief period, DISCUS has proven to be the most successful library information service ever provided in South Carolina. DISCUS is unique from most statewide database access projects in that it was designed to serve all types of libraries. It has offered an unprecedented level of access to users in public, school and academic libraries, as well as remotely from home or office.

While DISCUS is a State Library project, it has been a partnership from its inception. Staff members from other libraries have served on various committees to ensure that DISCUS continues to meet the informational needs of their patrons.

The accompanying chart illustrates the continual growth in DISCUS usage over this five-year period. It is truly an impressive story—15,391,900 full-text items viewed. Last year over 4.6 million full-text items were viewed. Most libraries could not have met this demand with local funds. The collaborative nature of DISCUS enables this access.

Mary Bull has served as the DISCUS Project Director from the beginning. She has coordinated the work of DISCUS committees. She has negotiated contracts with DISCUS vendors, arranged for training sessions for 6,376 attendees, and spent countless hours troubleshooting problems. She patiently assists on all DISCUS-related problems. It is no secret that Mary Bull is the driving force behind the success of DISCUS. We all owe her our thanks.



Georgetown Library Documents

Community Heritage (cont'd)

Professor Valinda Littlefield of the University of South Carolina agreed to help develop the oral history series, and her work was funded through a SCHC planning grant. During the course of a month, she met with a group of local citizens representative of the ethnic, socio-economic, gender, and geographical composition of the county. She guided the committee in the development of the framework and selection of scholars for this series that was funded by a major SCHC grant of about \$14,000.

Then began the coordination of myriad moving parts: ladies, scholars, technicians, librarians, sets, equipment, and emotions. The project involved much more than just "Lights! Camera! Action!" It was a full-fledged cinematic production requiring both focus and finesse. For example, how should one invite an elderly person to contribute memories to such an endeavor? As one reporter later asked, "What do you say to these people? We want to get your story before you die?" Of course, that line was not employed on a single individual. A certain measure of tact and discretion was required. As in theatre and real estate, the first rule was almost always "timing and location."

But the work paid off, and now the employees of the Georgetown County Library are submitting a request for another major humanities grant in the fall. It's again on oral history, and this time it's the turn of the men of Georgetown County.

If you would like additional information on applying for humanities grants or on doing an oral history project, please contact Dwight McInvaill, director of the Georgetown County Library at 843-545-3304, or check out the South Carolina Humanities Council website at <http://www.schumanities.org>.



Ramona LaRoche and "Sister" Genevieve Peterkin

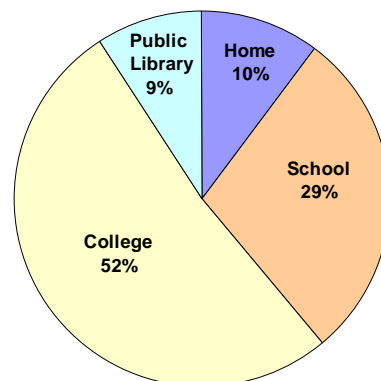


Patricia Doyle, Florida Yeldell and Professor Valinda Littlefield



DISCUS – South Carolina's Virtual Library completed its fifth year of operation on June 30, 2002, with record-breaking usage statistics. South Carolinians viewed a total of **4,602,393** full-text items, a **21% increase** over the previous year. The chart illustrates usage statistics by location.

DISCUS Usage by Location 2001/02



Other DISCUS highlights for the year include:

- Streamlined access for schools.
- Launched DISCUS domain. <www.scdiscus.org>
- Redesigned DISCUS web site.
- Expanded web-based training & support materials.
- Increased curricular content in resources.
- Added new content: *Charleston Post & Courier*, *Greenville News*, *Health Reference Center – Academic*.
- Increased college & public library use of advanced database capabilities – links to other e-journal subscriptions, journal holdings information, etc.

College:	2,393,444
School:	1,322,080
Home:	468,412
Public Library:	418,457
TOTAL:	4,602,393

Testimonials from teachers, students, librarians and other users document the many ways that DISCUS supports teaching, learning and citizen access to information.

DISCUS has totally revolutionized online searching at the high school level. It is our most outstanding resource! – Spartanburg County

DISCUS is the antidote to haphazard Internet web surfing. It puts edited, reliable, journal articles into the hands, and hopefully the brains of students investigating and writing up research projects. – Horry County

DISCUS helps ALL people have resources at their fingertips and become independent, lifelong learners. – Charleston County

DISCUS has provided resources that our budget alone could never allow. It extends our patrons' worlds with great sources for research and enjoyment. – Georgetown

For more information about DISCUS, visit the DISCUS web site: <http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/discus> or contact: Mary Bull, DISCUS Project Director, (803) 737-7736 or email: mary@leo.scsl.state.sc.us.



Our Library Leadership



Mary Jo Dawson
APLA President

Mary Jo Dawson, director of the Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library System, has recently begun serving a one-year term as the president of the Association of Public Library Administrators (APLA) of South Carolina. During her term as president, Dawson plans to continue APLA's mission of strengthening ties among county public library administrators, the South Carolina State Library, and the South Carolina Library Association.

"Participation in APLA-sponsored activities such as Library Legislative Day has been a very formative experience for me since I became a South Carolina library director five years ago," Dawson said. "I'm looking forward to this year-long opportunity to give back a little of my time and efforts to this vital organization."

During her tenure, Dawson said, APLA will continue advocating for increased State Aid appropriations and will work with the State Library and other library advocates to emphasize the education mission of public libraries.

"We've seen disappointing drops in our State Aid in recent years due to state budget cuts. Because the budget reductions may continue into the next several years, we have to advocate more strongly than ever." -- Mary Jo Dawson

"We've seen disappointing drops in our State Aid in recent years due to state budget cuts. Because the budget reductions may continue into the next several years, we have to advocate more strongly than ever," Dawson said. "I appreciate Georgetown County Library director Dwight McInvaill's willingness to dedicate so much of his time and energy to this issue as chair of APLA's legislative committee.

Dawson said another priority project during her presidency would be the development of a salary survey in conjunction with the South Carolina State Library. "The short term goal of this project is to get some comparative data into the hands of library directors for use in budget preparation," Dawson said. "The long term goal is to use this survey to assist in efforts to increase library salaries and improve recruitment efforts for our South Carolina public libraries."

"It's going to be a challenging year," said Dawson. "Fortunately, I will be supported in my efforts by an active executive board."

APLA Executive Board:

Vice-President: Todd Stephens, Spartanburg County Library

Secretary: Marilyn Tsirigotis, Clarendon County Library

Treasurer: Bill Cooper, Laurens County Library

Past-President: Salley B. Davidson, Marion County Library

At-Large Delegates: John Gaumer, Horry County Library

Beverly James, Greenville County Library



Targeting Teens

Services to teens are expanding in public libraries around the state. The four largest libraries in the state have teen/young adult librarians, and several others have part-time or staff designated to develop teen services. While some libraries in the state are using the traditional term Young Adult, others are using "Teen". Most libraries now consider teen services covering those middle and high school and realize that older teens are less likely to be actively involved. There are increased efforts to offer activities for teens in branches as well as headquarters libraries. Likewise, summer reading for teens is increasing.

Rows of hardback books are taking a back seat to paperbacks and graphic novels in a number of libraries. William White, teen librarian at Spartanburg County Library, says graphic novels are hard to keep on the shelf. The growth of graphic novels has led to major book jobbers issuing special graphic book catalogs.

Twenty percent of the libraries in the state now have a part of their website designated for teens. This includes not only the large library systems but smaller libraries such as Laurens County Library and the Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library. Most of these sites provide links to websites, but some include program schedules.

Richland County Public Library's website allows teens to post reviews of books they have read for other teens to read.

Programming for teens is also growing. Here is a sampling of what libraries are offering.

- Book discussions for teens
- Friday movie nights for teens (Charleston)
- Annual poetry contest (Berkeley)
- CPR for teens and babysitters (Spartanburg)
- Solving crimes (Spartanburg)
- Anime (Japanese animation) Film Festival (Spartanburg)
- Slammin' Poetry—teens reading their poetry (Richland)

Libraries with teen websites

AHJ Regional Library: <http://www.ahjlibrary.org/teenlinks2.htm>

Berkeley County Library <http://www.berkeley.lib.sc.us/teenz.html>

Horry County Library: <http://www.horry.lib.sc.us/forteens.htm>

Laurens County Library: <http://www.lcpl.org/forteens.htm>

Lexington County Library: <http://students.libsci.sc.edu/liz/lexyouth/ya.htm>

Richland County Public Library: <http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/ya/>

Spartanburg County Library: <http://www.spt.lib.sc.us/teen/index.htm>

York County Library: <http://www.yclibrary.org/teenlinks.html#read>

USC Gamecock football player, Brian Elam, signs the t-shirt of a Pigskin Poet fan. Nearly 30 members of the USC Gamecock Football team played games, sang and read stories with more than 200 children at Richland County Public Library's main library to spread the message that reading is fun and important. This is the fifth year of the Pigskin Poets program.



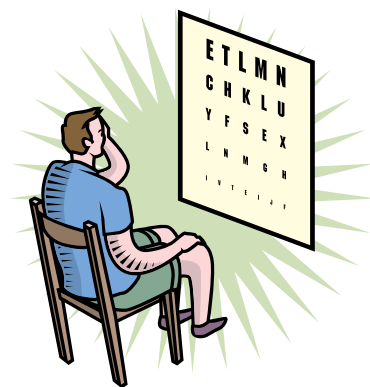
For more information, please contact Jane Connor, Youth Services Consultant, (803) 734-8658 or email: janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us



Library services and aging baby-boomers...

The number of Americans with vision loss and those at risk for age-related eye diseases continues to increase. When aging baby-boomers are factored in, the number is expected to double within the next three decades.

Already in South Carolina, vision impairment and blindness affect 56,310 people older than 40 – more than the population of the city of Greenville.



The prevalence of sight threatening eye diseases (macular degeneration, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma) in Americans age 40 and older should be of concern to all information professionals. Library administrators and their staffs must prepare for an information services environment capable of linking this growing clientele to specialized materials and equipment.

The Talking Book Services program of the State Library continues to see an increase in the number of readers registering for services (3%-4% increase per FY) with circulation of special format materials averaging 249,287 items annually. **Registered talking book readers:**

FY 99-00	7046
FY 00-01	7250
FY 01-02	7560

The present program uses analog technology; however, major efforts are underway to identify opportunities the digital world offers for the improvement of library services to blind and physically impaired individuals. Guynell Williams, Director of Talking Book Services for the State Library, serves on the Digital Long-Term Planning Group of the Library of Congress, National Library Services. The group is working with publishers and other interested groups to recommend methods that will truly revolutionize how libraries provide services to these citizens in the next decade.

Source: Vision problems in the U.S.: prevalence of adult vision impairment and age-related eye disease in America. [Schaumburg, IL]: Prevent Blindness America, c2002. (Available at the South Carolina State Library. Call number 614.5997 VISI)

For more information, contact Guynell Williams, Director, Talking Books Services, (803) 734-4611 or email guynell@leo.scsl.state.sc.us.

Don't wait for the paper issue!!

News for South Carolina Libraries is available in electronic format at the State Library's Web site www.state.sc.us/scsl/news/archives/

If you wish to be notified when the latest edition is online, you may subscribe to an e-mail at the site.

The Caroliniana column is no longer included in this newsletter. Recently published materials pertaining to South Carolina are now featured on the State Library's web site at www.state.sc.us/scsl/caroliniana.html If you wish to be notified bi-monthly when the list is updated, you may subscribe to an e-mail list at the site.



RCPL Goes Global



The first 24 hour global reference service is being established this fall by the Richland County Public Library (RCPL) in cooperation with the Brisbane City Council Library Service in Queensland, Australia, and the Somerset County Council Libraries, Arts and Information Service in the United Kingdom.

"Answers Now – All the Time, Across the World," a unique online, real-time reference service, will expand the available information resources for each of the three communities. Each library is responsible for eight-hour increments, allowing constant, 24-hour

reference service to patrons in all three service areas of the world.

To access the service, patrons will simply log on to one of the three libraries' web sites and click on the Answers Now icon. They are then able to interact with a reference librarian online, gaining access to information and resources 24 hours a day.

The service uses software developed by Library Systems and Services, L.L.C. (LSSI). The LSSI Reference Division team is using new technologies for libraries - bundled with training and support - to provide new tools and new ways for reference librarians to meet the changing nature of library usage.

"This connection allows the three libraries to truly become global resources of information in a unique, innovative way," said David Warren, executive director of RCPL.

South Carolina State Library

Administration: James B. Johnson, Jr., Director
John H. Landrum, Deputy Director

Library Development: Margie Herron, Director

Information Services: Anne Schneider, Director

Technical Services: Felicia Yeh, Director

Talking Book Services: Guynell Williams, Director
(803) 734-4611, Toll Free: 1-800-922-7818

Board of Trustees: Maria B. Macaulay, Chairman
Margaret J. Bundy
James Campbell
Barbara Gadegbeku
Hugh Rogers
Gwendolyn Smith
B.G. Stephens

State Library: www.state.sc.us/scsl

Talking Book Services: www.state.sc.us/scsl/bph

DISCUS: www.scdiscus.org

Palmetto Book Alliance: www.palmettobookalliance.org

SC Reference Room: www.state.sc.us/scsl/refdesk

News for South Carolina Libraries

is published bi-monthly by the South Carolina State Library.

John Landrum, Editor
Debbie Anderson, Layout

Publication of this document was partially funded under the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the South Carolina State Library.

\$ 715.81 total printing cost, 2,250 copies printed,
\$0.318 per copy

News For South Carolina Libraries

1430 Senate Street
P.O. Box 11469
Columbia, SC 29211

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, S.C.
Permit No. 953

